GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5152
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2000
GUIDELINES FOR CANDIDATES CONTESTING THE ELECTION
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Election Commissioner of India had suggested norms and guidelines likeeducation, past background etc. for the prospective candidates for Parliament and State Assemblies;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; (

(c) whether the Government have formed a group of Ministers or propose to constitute a Commission for electoral reforms;

(d) if so, whether the Government contemplate to discuss this issue in the Current Sessionof Parliament to arrive at a consensus for constituting a Parliamentary Commission; and

(e) if so, the time schedule for such a Commission to submit its report to the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE & COMPANY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING

(SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) The Chief Election Commissioner has not made any proposal regarding educationalqualification of candidates contesting for Parliament and State Assembly elections. However,the Election Commission made certain proposals for disqualifying candidates seeking elections to Parliament/State Assemblies on the ground that charges had been framed against them forcertain serious offences. In respect of candidates who have been convicted for certain specified offences, it is open to the Electoral Officers to seek information in respect of offences for which they may have been convicted. Such candidates are required to file affidavit about their convictions in cases covered by section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

(b) The Government has no proposal at present to make changes in the law making educational qualifications compulsory for seeking elections to Parliament/State Assemblies or to disqualify candidates based on framing of charges against them.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) & (e) Do not arise.